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Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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DEP Announces Poster Contest Winners

The twelve winners in the Connecticut DEP's Recycling Program poster contest for 4th, 5th and 6th grade children have been selected. Each participating school was required to hold its own poster contest, and then to send one winner per grade level to DEP for entry in the state contest. A total of 59 posters from 38 schools was received at the state level. These posters were chosen from well over 1,200 posters entered in local school contests. The winners will be honored at an awards ceremony to be held in December at the State Capitol Building. DEP Commissioner Sidney J. Holbrook and Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell will be on hand to present the awards.

The winning posters have been used to illustrate a poster calendar for 1997. The theme this year is "Recycling Begins and Ends With You!". Every school in Connecticut will receive a supply of 15 calendars in mid-December. Additional calendars are available to anyone on request at no charge, while supplies last. If you would like to receive a poster(s), call the Recycling Program Office at (860) 424-3365. These calendars will serve as a colorful reminder throughout the year that for recycling to be successful, everyone must not only separate certain items from trash, but also purchase products made from recycled materials.

The Recycling Program would like to thank everyone who participated in the contest, especially those teachers who took the time to coordinate the contest and provide their students with this enrichment opportunity. We would also like to thank our panel of judges who faced the very difficult task of choosing among the many beautiful posters that we received. The judges this year were: Cheryl Burke, Director CRRA Visitors Center; Yvonne Fossey, Educator SWEROC Children's Garbage Museum; Kathy Dube, Regional Recycling Coordinator for CRCOG, Marie Silver, Assistant Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority; and Judy Belaval and Meg Enkler of CT DEP. Special congratulations go to Saint Catherine of Siena in Trumbull. This school had a winner in both the 4th and 5th grade categories. This year's winners are as follows:

4th Grade

Robert Kmetzo, Saint Catherine of Siena,
Trumbull

Trevor Knox, Litchfield Intermediate,
Litchfield

Curtis Rooth, Gildersleeve School, Portland

Anastasia Faulkner, St. Mary/St. Michael,
Shelton

6th Grade

Min Jung Kim, Church Street School,
Hamden

Matt Cryan, The Learning Clinic, Brooklyn

5th Grade

Lindsey Voskowsky, Wells Road School,
Granby

Cathleen Raimondi, Saint Catherine of Siena,
Trumbull

Alexander Robert Connell, Horace W. Porter
School, Columbia

Elizabeth Luby, Saint Joseph School, Meriden

Heidi Lewis, Assumption School, Ansonia

Nina Sudaker, Saint Dominic School,
Southington

Connecticut Recyclers Coalition Wins National Award

The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC) received an Honorable Mention for the Beth Brown Boettner Award for its education programs from the National Recycling Coalition. The award winning programs included the Home Waste Audit Pilot Project (a source reduction education program) and the Fashion Show Loan Box Program. The award was accepted by Winston Averill, CRC President, at the National Recycling Coalition's Annual Congress in Pittsburgh. Congratulations to CRC on this well-deserved honor.

City of New Britain Wins Award for Innovative "Waste Inspector" Program

The City of New Britain's Board of Public Works won a silver award in the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award's 1996 entry level, Connecticut Innovation Prize. The City's application describing the quantitative benefits of hiring a waste inspector was chosen from 140 entries. The award was presented at the CQIA's October 23 conference, "Barebones Baldrige, A Quality Conference for Results-Driven Organizations."

Five years ago, the City of New Britain recognized the need for a field employee who could aid in the enforcement of residential curbside refuse and recycling ordinances. Because limited municipal resources did not enable the city to hire a municipal employee to fulfill this function, the city required the municipally contracted hauler to hire a "waste inspector" through the rubbish collection contract. The contract also allows the city to have input in the hiring process for this individual. New Britain is the only Connecticut community with such a provision in its municipal waste contract.

The waste inspector is the key field inspector for on-street public education, citizen complaint resolution; and tracking recycling participation rates through targeted monitoring. This spotting for compliance with local trash disposal requirements triggers the City's warning and fining process. Without a Waste Inspector reporting problems on daily trash routes, the City's enforcement process would be far less effective.

The impact of this individual has been significant. Non-compliance notices to citizens have climbed six-fold to an estimated 1600 per year. The waste inspector also addresses an average of 20 problems (100+ per year) at curbside per day by leaving educational brochures, speaking to residents and neighbors, tagging inappropriately packaged/placed items, or removing unsafe items.

The Recycling Program congratulates the City of New Britain on their award for this innovative approach to assuring both compliance with the state recycling laws and a quality product (collected recyclables) for the marketplace.

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Meg Enkler, Waste Bureau/Recycling
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